

**MEDIA RELEASE**                      **Pelonomi Hospital attack: PSA calls on Minister of Health to step in**

**DATE**                                      6 June 2019

**EMBARGO**                                None

**ENQUIRIES**                              communication@psa.co.za

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has condemned in the strongest terms the attack and attempted rape of a 24-year old female medical doctor at the Pelonomi Hospital in Bloemfontein in the Free State on 4 June 2019, blaming the situation a general disregard for employees' safety.

The Union that represents thousands of health-sector employees indicated that the attack is even more disturbing as it took place inside the Hospital in one of the so-called restrooms. The Union called for swift and firm action against the perpetrator for this atrocious and despicable act. It also appealed to law enforcement agencies to ensure that the perpetrator is not granted bail as he poses a severe danger to society.

The PSA is of the view that this incident happened because of continued disregard by the Department of Health in the Free State for its employees' wellbeing. The PSA also called on the new Minister of Health and the Premier of the Free State to immediately set plans in action to ensure that the safety of employees and the public is enhanced at all hospitals in the province.

The PSA expressed its solidarity with all employees who were left traumatised by the incident and wished the female doctor a speedy recovery.

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